tombs and burying-places of ancient heroes, who in all probability fell in battle. Theſe tombs are eaſily diſtinguiſhed by the mounds of earth and ſtone railed over them. The Tartars fay, Tamerlane had many engagements in this coun­try with the Kalmucks, whom he in vain endeavoured to conquer. Many perſons go from Tomſky, and other parts, every ſummer, to theſe graves, which they dig up, and find among the aſhes of the dead considerable quantities of gold, ſilver, braſs, and ſome precious ſtones, but particularly hilts of ſwords and armour. They find alſo ornaments of ſaddles and bridles, and other trappings for horſes ; and ſome­times thoſe of elephants. Whence it appears, that when any general or perſon of diſtinction was interred, all his arms, his favourite horſe and ſervant, were buried with him in the ſame grave ; this cuſtom prevails to this day among the Kalmucks and other Tartars, and ſeems to be of great antiquity. It appears from the number of graves, that many thouſands muſt have fallen in thoſe places ; for the people have continued to dig for treaſure many years, and ſtill find it unexhauſted. They are, indeed, ſometimes in­terrupted, and robbed of all their booty, by parties of Kal­mucks, who abhor diſturbing the aſhes of the dead. Arm­ed men on horſeback, call in braſs, of no mean deſign and workmanſhip, with the figures of deer caſt in pure gold, have been dug out of theſe tombs. They once diſcovered an arched vault, where they found the remains of a man, with his bow, lance, and other arms, lying on a silver table. On touching the body, it fell to duſt. The value of the table and arms was very conſiderable. For the manners and cuſtoms of theſe Tartars, ſee Kalmucks.

Great quantities of a kind of ivory, called by the natives *Mammons-horn,* are found in this country and in Siberia, on the banks of the Oby. They are commonly found on the banks of rivers that have been waſhed by floods. Some of them are very entire and freſh, like the beſt ivory in all respects, excepting only the colour, which is of a yellowiſh hue. In Siberia they make ſnuff-boxes, combs, and divers forts of turnery ware of them. Some have been found weigſhing above 100 pounds Engliſh.

The moſt conſiderable tribes in Weſtern Tartary, next to the Kalmucks, are the Kalkas and Mungls, or Mongals, properly ſo called. The country of the Kalkas extends eaſtward, from mount Altay to the ſource oſ the river Kalka, whence they derive their name, in the borders of Eaſt- ern Tartary, and 139th degree of longitude. The territo­ries of the Mungls, or Mongalia, lie to the ſouth of thoſe of the Kalkas, between them and the great wall of China, to which empire both nations are subject. Beſides theſe tribes, who are idolaters of the religion of the Delay Lama, there are others, who poſſeſs that part of Weſtern Tartary called *Turkestan,* the original country of the Turks and Turkmans, ſituated to the north of Great Bukharia and Karazm, between thoſe countries and the dominions of the Eluths. Under Weſtern Tartary alſo is comprehended Tibet, Thibet, or Tobbut, ſubject to the Delay Lama, or great high-prieſt of the Pagan Partais and Chineſe.

In all the vaſt region of Weſtern Tartary, there are but few towns, moſt of the inhabitants living under tents, eſpecially in ſummer, and moving from place to place with their flocks and herds. They generally encamp near ſome river for the convenience of water.

The air of this country is temperate, wholeſome, and pleaſant, being equally removed from the extremes of heat and cold. As to the soil, though there are many mountains, lakes, and deſerts in it, yet the banks of the rivers, and the plains, ſome of which are of great extent, are exceeding fer­tile. The mountains, woods, and deſerts, abound with venison, game, and wild fowl ; and the rivers and lakes both with fiſh and fowl. In particular, here are wild mules, hor­ſes, and dromedaries, wild boars, ſeveral kinds of deer, a ſpe­cies of goats with yellow hair, ſquirrels, foxes ; an animal called *hautehan,* reſembling an elk ; another called *chulon* or *cheliſon,* that ſeems to be a sort of lynx ; and a creature called *tael-pe,* as ſmall as an ermine, of whoſe ſkins the Chi­neſe make mantles to keep out the cold. Among other birds of extraordinary beauty, bred in this country, there is one called the sho*nkar,* which is all over white except the beak, wings, and tail, which are of a very fine red. Not- withſtanding the foil in many parts of Tartary is ſo luxuri­ant, yet we are told it does not produce a ſingle wood of tall trees of any kind whatever, excepting in ſome few places towards the frontiers ; all the wood that is found in the heart of the country conſiſting of lhrubs, which never exceed the height of a pike, and even theſe are rare.

It is remarkable, that in all the vaſt dominions of Mon- galia, there is not ſo much as a single house to be ſeen. All the people, even the prince and high-prieſt, live conſtantly in tents, and remove their cattle from place to place as convceniency requires. Theſe people do not trouble themſelves with ploughing or digging the ground in any faſhion, but are content with the produce of their flocks, though the foil is exceeding fine, and capable, by proper culture, of pro­ducing grain of ſeveral forts.

In the country of the Mongals the graſs is very thick and rank, and would with little labour make excellent hay. This graſs is often ſet on fire by the Mongals in the ſpring during high winds. At ſuch times it burns moſt furiouſly, running like wild-fire, and ſpreading its flames to the di­ſtance of perhaps 10 or 20 miles, till its progress is inter­rupted by ſome river or barren hill. The rapidity of thoſe flames, their ſmoke and crackling noiſe, cannot eaſily be conceived by thoſe who have not ſeen them. When any person finds himſelf to the leeward of them, the only me­thod by which he can fave himſelf from their fury, is to kindle immediately the graſs where he ſtands, and follow his own fire. For this purpoſe, every perſon is provided with flints, ſteel, and tinder. The reason why the Mongals ſet fire to the graſs, is to procure early paſture to their cattle. The aſhes left upon the gound fink into the earth at the melting of the snow, and prove an excellent manure ; ſo that the graſs in the ſpring riſes on the lands which have been prepared in this manner as thick as a field of wheat. Ca­ravans, travellers with merchandiſe, but eſpecially armies, never encamp upon this rank graſs ; and there are ſeveral inſtances of conſiderable bodies of men being put in confuſion, and even defeated, by the enemy’s ſetting fire to the graſs.

Eaſtern Tartary, according to the limits uſually aſſigned it by hiſtorians and geographers, is bounded to the west by Weſtern Tartary, or by that part poſſeſſed by the proper Mungls and Kalkas ; on the north by Siberia ; on the eaſt by that part of the Oriental Ocean called the *Tartarian Sea* ; and on the ſouth by the ſame ſea, the kingdom of Korea, and the Yellow Sea, which ſeparates it from China. It is ſituated between the 137th and 160th degrees of lon­gitude, being about 900 miles long from ſouth to north, and near as many in breadth from well to eaſt, yet but thinly peopled. This large region is at preſent divided into three great governments, all ſubject to the Chineſe, viz. Shing-yang or Mugden, Kurin-ula, and Tſitsikar.

'The government of Shin-yang, containing all the ancient Lyau-tong or Quan-tong, is bounded on the ſouth by the great wall of China and the Yellow Sea; on the eaſt, north, and west, it is incloſed by a wooden paliſade, ſeven or eight feet high, fitter to mark its bounds and keep out petty rob­bers than to oppoſe an army.